

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10

PA-02 PRS-01 /117 W

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R 231146Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3895

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ, MEDITERRANEAN
AND SINAI

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 7869; (B) TEL AVIV 7517

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN DAVAR ON NOVEMBER 18:

BEGIN QUOTE

IN THE COMING WEEK NEW OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IS EXPECTED IN
THE A-TUR AREA OF SOUTHERN SINAI. THE DRILLING IS BEING
CARRIED OUT IN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND
A FOREIGN COMPANY. THE FIRST OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THIS
AREA TOOK PLACE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS AGO BUT DID NOT FIND OIL.
THE NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE A-TUR REGION, EXPECTED IN
THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WILL BE DONE BY A CONTRACTED ENGLISH
FIRM FOR THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY. THE LATTER WILL ALSO
ASSIST WITH ISRAELI SERVICES.

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DURING THE FIRST OFFSHORE DRILLING IN SOUTHERN SINAI, WHICH

WAS DRY, EXPERTS OF THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY MADE VARIOUS TESTS IN THE AREA AND LOCATED NEW DRILLING POINTS IN SOUTHERN SINAI. IN THE COURSE OF THE MONTHS SINCE, MANY NECESSARY REPAIRS WERE MADE ON THE MACHINERY FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING AND ON THE DRILLING RAFT, AND THEY ARE GOOD AS NEW FOR WORK AND ARE CONCENTRATED AT THE DRILLING POINTS. IN ADDITION TO THIS OFFSHORE DRILLING, IN COOPERATION WITH A FOREIGN FIRM -- THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY WILL IMPLEMENT IN THE A-TUR AREA A DIAGONAL DRILLING FROM THE LAND TO THE SEA. IT IS RECALLED THAT IN THIS AREA A DIAGONAL DRILLING BY THE NAME OF "Yael 1" (SIC) HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE, BUT IT PROVED SOME WEEKS AGO TO BE DRY. THE SECOND DIAGONAL DRILLING IS EXPECTED DECEMBER 1, AND THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY WILL BE THE LAPIDOT COMPANY.

AT THE END OF NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, A SHALLOW LAND DRILLING IN THE A-TUR REGION IS ALSO EXPECTED. THE FIRST OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE EL ARISH AREA HAS BEGUN. A MODERN DRILL SHIP HAS BEEN LEASED FROM AN ENGLISH COMPANY, AND IT IS SUPPLIED WITH ALL THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO DO THE DRILLING FOR THE OIL EXPLORATION, INVESTMENT, COMPANY.
END QUOTE

2. ANOTHER DAVAR ARTICLE OF NOVEMBER 18 ALSO NOTED THAT AN ISRAELI DRILL SHIP IS PRESENTLY BEGINNING THE FIRST OIL DRILLING IN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE MEDITERRANEAN OPPOSITE EL ARISH.

3. A DAVAR ARTICLE OF NOVEMBER 19 NOTED THAT LABOR PROBLEMS ARE LIKELY TO DELAY OIL DRILLING IN THE SADOT AREA OF THE RAFIAH REGION. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC MENTION OF OIL DRILLING IN THIS AREA OF SINAI.
TOON

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